

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

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PCT

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

(PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Applicant's or agent's file reference PI524PC00		Date of mailing (day/month/year) 02 NOV 2004
International application No. PCT/IB04/01633		FOR FURTHER ACTION See paragraph 2 below
International filing date (day/month/year) 19 May 2004 (19.05.2004)	Priority date (day/month/year) 21 May 2003 (21.05.2003)	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC IPC(7): A63F 9/24 and US Cl.: 463/29		
Applicant WATERLEAF LIMITED		

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- ☒ Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- ☐ Box No. II Priority
- ☒ Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- ☐ Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- ☒ Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- ☐ Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- ☐ Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- ☐ Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. FURTHER ACTION

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

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WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
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Box No. I Basis of this opinion

1. With regard to the language, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
☐ This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b)).
2. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - a. type of material
☐ a sequence listing
☐ table(s) related to the sequence listing
 - b. format of material
☐ in written format
☐ in computer readable form
 - c. time of filing/furnishing
☐ contained in international application as filed.
☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
3. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. Additional comments:

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Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability

1. The questions whether the claimed invention appears to be novel, to involve an inventive step (to be non-obvious), or to be industrially applicable have not been examined in respect of:

☐ the entire international application

☒ claims Nos. 6 and 7

because:

☐ the said international application, or the said claim Nos. _____ relate to the following subject matter which does not require an international preliminary examination (*specify*):

☒ the description, claims or drawings (*indicate particular elements below*) or said claims Nos. 6 and 7 are so unclear that no meaningful opinion could be formed (*specify*):

They are improperly multiply dependent under PCT Rule 6.4(a).

☐ the claims, or said claims Nos. _____ are so inadequately supported by the description that no meaningful opinion could be formed.

☒ no international search report has been established for said claims Nos. 6 and 7

☐ the nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing does not comply with the standard provided for in Annex C of the Administrative Instructions in that:

the written form

☐

has not been furnished

☐

does not comply with the standard

the computer readable form

☐

has not been furnished

☐

does not comply with the standard

☐ the tables related to the nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing, if in computer readable form only, do not comply with the technical requirements provided for in Annex C-bis of the Administrative Instructions.

☐ See Supplemental Box for further details.

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
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Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43 bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims <u>NONE</u>	YES
	Claims <u>1-5 & 8-18</u>	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims <u>NONE</u>	YES
	Claims <u>1-5 & 8-18</u>	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims <u>1-5 & 8-18</u>	YES
	Claims <u>NONE</u>	NO

2. Citations and explanations:

Claims 1-5 and 8-18 lack novelty under PCT Article 33(2)-(3) as being anticipated by Cumbers (US Patent Number 6,142,876) teaches a method and apparatus for player identification including a camera (20) to photograph a player (22) while playing a gaming machine (34). Data, including player identity, size and type of wager, the outcome of the game and the player's picture is stored at a logging facility. (Abstract) The system allows logged data to be retrieved and displayed. By law, the data is required to be stored on nonvolatile memory devices.

Claims 1-5 and 8-18 meet the criteria under PCT Article 33(4), because the subject matter claimed can be made or used in industry.

Claims

1. A player identification system, comprising:
 - 5 a betting terminal operable by a player to play at least one game thereon and to place a wager on an outcome of any turn of the game, the outcome of each turn the game being determined, at least in part, by chance;
 - 10 a camera associated with the betting terminal, the camera being arranged to capture an image of the player operating the betting terminal at least once during each turn of the at least one game; and
 - 15 a logging facility capable of logging, for each turn of the at least one game, logging data representative of a size and type of the wager placed by the player on the turn of the game, the corresponding outcome of that turn of the game, and the image of the player captured by the camera during the turn of the game.
2. A player identification system as claimed in claim 1 in which the betting terminal is operable by the player to play any one of a number of different selectable games.
- 20 3. A player identification system as claimed in claim 2 in which the camera is arranged to capture the image of the player operating the betting terminal at least once during each turn of any game being played by the player.
- 25 4. A player identification system as claimed in claim 3 in which the logging data is representative, also, of the particular game being played by the player.
- 30 5. A player identification system as claimed any one of the preceding claims in which the logging facility includes a non-volatile storage memory for storing the logging data thereon.

6. A player identification system as claimed in claim 5 in which the storage memory is configured as a rolling buffer capable of storing logging data relating to a number of the most recent turns of any games played by the player.
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7. A player identification system as claimed in claim 1 that includes an enquiry facility operable to display any logging data contained in the storage memory.
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8. A player identification system as claimed in claim 7 that includes a display monitor capable of displaying any image of the player contained in the storage memory.
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9. A method for identifying players at a betting terminal, comprising the steps of:
- enabling a player to operate a betting terminal to play at least one game thereon and to place a wager on an outcome of any turn of the game, the outcome of each turn the game being determined, at least in part, by chance;
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- capturing, at least once during each turn of the at least one game, a camera image of the player operating the betting terminal; and logging, for each turn of the at least one game, logging data representative of a size and type of the wager placed by the player on the turn of the game, the corresponding outcome of that turn of the game, and the image of the player captured by the camera during the
- 25
- turn of the game.
10. A method as claimed in claim 9 that includes the step of enabling the player to operate the betting terminal to play any one of a number of
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- different selectable games.
11. A method as claimed in claim 10 that includes a step of capturing the image of the player operating the betting terminal at least once during each turn of any game being played by the player.

12. A method as claimed in claim 11 that includes a step of logging additional data representative of the particular game being played by the player.

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13. A method as claimed in any one of claims 9 to 12 that includes a step of storing the logging data on a non-volatile storage memory.

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14. A method as claimed in claim 9 that includes a step of configuring the storage memory as a rolling buffer capable of storing logging data relating to a number of the most recent turns of any games played by the player.

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15. A method as claimed in claim 14 that includes a step of displaying any logging data contained in the storage memory on an enquiry facility having a display monitor.

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